Appl. No. 10/521,229 Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2005

## Amendments to the Specification:

Page 4, replace the paragraph under formula (1) with the following amended paragraph:

wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each -CN, -COR<sub>5</sub>, COOR<sub>6</sub> [[-COOR]] or -CONR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group;  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$  and  $L_3$  are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective  $-L_2=L_3-$  may be the same or different;  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group;  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.